THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMTI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The existing instructions in the matter provide as follows:—

"An officer under suspension is regarded as subject to all other conditions of service applicable generally to Government servants and cannot leave the station without prior permission. As such the headquarters of a Government servant should normally be assumed to be his last place of duty. However, where an individual under suspension requests for a change of headquarters, there is no objection to a competent authority changing the headquarters if it is satisfied that such a course will not put Government to any expenditure like grant of T.A. etc. or other complication."

Stagnation in CSS

2021. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that officers with more than 20 years of regular service as Section Officer in the Central Secretariat Service are yet to be appointed as Under Secretary on regular basis;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Brahma Committee constituted to suggest measures for removing stagnation in CSS has taken into consideration the recommendations made by the Standing Committee of the Parliament on Home Affairs in this regard; and

(d) if so, the recommendations incorporated or being accepted by Brahma Committee and those ignored with reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Promotion of Section Officers (SOs) in the Central Secretariat Services (CSS) to the grade of Under Secretary (US) have got delayed owing, *inter alia*, to protracted litigation in the CAT, Principal Bench as well as in the Supreme Court over the issue of *inter se* seniority of direct recruits and promotee SOs. As a result, the regular Grade-I (US) panels of CSS could not be finalized after 1986. The issue was finally settled by the Supreme Court through their order dated 09.05.1997,

pursuant to which a Common Seniority List (CSL) of SOs was issued on 03.12.1997. On the basis of this CSL, the Select Lists up to the year 1990 have already been issued and the proposal for the years 1991—94 has been sent to the UPSC.

(c) and (d) As per the terms of reference of the Committee of Senior Officers constituted by the Government for restructuring of CSS, the Committee was expected to go into various aspects of the cadre structure of CSS and to suggest remedial measures for removal of stagnation in the service. The Committee has since submitted its report on 28.02.2002. The various recommendations made by the Committee are currently being studied by the Government.

Cases pending with CAT

2022. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the number of cases pending with the Central Administrative Tribunal has crossed 50,000 as on the 31st December, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government have taken during the last two years to expedite disposal of the cases pending in the CAT and the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) No Sir. There were 35,671 cases pending in the Central Administrative Tribunal as on 31.12.2001. The pendency has been steadily decreasing since 1999.

(c) The Government does not interfere in the judicial functioning of the Tribunal. However, efforts are made by the Government to fill up the vacant posts of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members as expeditiously as possible. On account of this and steps taken by the Central Administrative Tribunal itself for expeditious disposal of cases, there has been increase in the rate of disposal of cases in as much as 31,398 cases and 31,953 cases were decided in the years 2000 and 2001 respectively, leaving 35,671 cases pending on 31.12.2001.